



# Fax Cover Sheet

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*Patricia E. Masteller  
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Marion, Iowa 52302*

January 24, 2002

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

American consumers have been bilked out of tens of millions of dollars enduring prolonged litigation in the Microsoft antitrust case. And their own attorneys general and the very companies trying to woo their business have done the bilking.

Microsoft's competitors would tell like they are the proverbial "David" to Microsoft's "Goliath", but several of these companies have grown and merged to monolithic conglomerates themselves. In the biblical story, it is David who threw stones, and Microsoft's competitors have fervently done so, encouraging media frenzy through bitter accusations and editorial campaigns. Somehow excusing their own anti-competitive behaviors, competition has rabidly sought to achieve through the courts what they haven't been able to in the marketplace.

This shameful abuse of our judicial system should not be tolerated. I understand this highly publicized case has come to you through a questionable course of litigation. I am confident that prompt settlement ends this tragic scene of corporate manipulation, and I hope you'll agree.

Sincerely,



Patricia E. Masteller